

Handwritten:
M. J. ...
Date 1/18/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Handwritten: #12/A

In re application of :
Qingquan SU et al. : **Attn: BOX PCT**
Serial No. NEW : **Docket No. 2002_0048A**
Filed January 18, 2002 :

**ACID GAS SCRUBBING APPARATUS AND
METHOD
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/04857
Filed July 19, 2000]**

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**Prior to initial examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend
the application as follows:**

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the following claims:

A 1
4.(Amended) An acid gas scrubbing method **according to claim 1**, wherein
said gas to be scrubbed comprises a gas produced by gasification of combustibles in a
gasification step.

5.(Amended) An acid gas scrubbing method **according to claim 1**, wherein
after said gas to be scrubbed is scrubbed, the scrubbed gas is supplied to a hydrogen
production step.